



STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Taxation and Revenue Department
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DIVISIONS
Office of the Secretary
(505) 827-0341
Administrative Services
(505) 827-0369
Audit and Compliance
(505) 827-0900
Motor Transportation
(505) 827-0320
Motor Vehicle
(505) 827-2294
Property Tax
(505) 827-0870
Revenue Processing
(505) 827-0800

Bill Richardson

Governor

Jan Goodwin

Secretary

Taxation and Revenue Department
Collects \$62.5 million in Delinquent Taxes

Contact Kathleen Baca
(505) 827-0313
(505) 670-7425

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Santa Fe – The Secretary of Taxation and Revenue Department Jan Goodwin announced today that as of May 31, 2004 the department's back tax collection efforts have netted \$62.5 million in delinquent taxes – of which \$51.4 is general fund - well ahead of a June 30, 2004 deadline.

"Uncollected taxes is uncollected revenue," Goodwin said, "as a result of our back tax collection efforts, the state's general fund is now \$51.4 million richer and local governments received an additional \$11.1 million. This means more money for schools, public safety programs, health and human services and local governments."

According to Goodwin, New Mexico is owed millions of dollars in delinquent personal and gross receipts taxes. In January 2003 the Department received a legislative and executive mandate to collect \$50 in delinquent taxes by June 30, 2004 – the \$50 million was in addition to the \$51 million the department normally collects.

"We spent the last year educating the public about the importance of paying your taxes," said Goodwin, who spent the last year traveling the state to meet with business and trade organizations to promote the department's efforts, "Our message was simple: when you pay your taxes you are investing in New Mexico's communities. We wanted to remind people that our tax dollars pay for the services we all use and depend on."

In addition to educating taxpayers the department expanded its call center hours to 8 p.m. and added a half-day schedule on Saturdays; the department's Managed Audit program was expanded to include more taxpayers. Under the Managed Audit program taxpayers who know that they may owe taxes can approach the tax department, conduct a self-audit under the guidance of department officials and report the tax liability. If the liability is paid within thirty days, penalties and interest will be waived – which can save taxpayers thousands of dollars.

"This administration is committed to collecting the money owed the state and reinvesting it in our communities," Goodwin said.